

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 271307Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 870

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PROP, PFOR, CSCE, XG, BU

SUBJECT: "MINI-CSCE" OF EUROPEAN CENTER/AGRARIAN PARTIES

REF: A) HELSINKI 0291; B) SOFIA 2479; C) SOFIA 2483

1. EMBASSY HELSINKI HAS ABLY REPORTED AND ANALYZED REFTEL A, THE CONFERENCE ON CSCE HELD THERE BY EUROPEAN CENTER AND AGRARIAN PARTIES EARLIER THIS MONTH. WE OFFER SOME ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF SOFIA IN LIGHT OF SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT TREATMENT THE CONFERENCE OBTAINED HERE. PARTICIPANTS WERE DESCRIBED IN SOFIA PRESS AS "THE EUROPEAN AGRARIAN AND KINDRED PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, PARTIES OF THE CENTER, LEFT RADICAL, LIBERAL, AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES." THIS CASTS THE NET RATHER WIDE, BUT IN OUR OPINION THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL UNION (BAU) REALLY QUALIFIES UNDER NONE OF THOSE HEADINGS.

2. THAT THE BAU WAS A PRINCIPAL MOVING FORCE BEHIND THE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN REPORTED. HOWEVER, IT WAS PERHAPS NOT BROUGHT OUT CLEARLY ENOUGH THAT THIS IS TANTAMOUNT TO SAYING THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS CO-SPONSORED BY THE BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (BCP), WHICH TAKES ITS CUE FROM THE CP-USSR. AS WE REPORTED IN REF B (NOTAL), THE BAU DOES NOT EVEN CLAIM TO BE INDEPENDENT OF THE BCP. TO DESCRIBE IT AS A FRONT ORGANIZATION WOULD THUS BE UNDERSTATING THE DEGREE OF ITS INTEGRATION WITH THE BCP. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED (REF C) THAT BAU LEADER TANCHEV, WHO SITS WITH THE BCP POLITBURO, HAS REJECTED THE IDEA THAT HIS GROUP GOVERNS IN COALITION WITH THE BCP. HE INSISTS THE BAU AND BCP FORM A "UNION". HE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED PRIVATELY THAT EXCEPT FOR THE APPEAL IT MAKES TO CERTAIN ELEMENTS BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD, THE BAU DOES NOT DIFFER FROM THE BCP.

3. ACCORDINGLY, THE "MINI-CSCE" ORGANIZED IN HELSINKI FOR WHOSE ORGANIZATION AND FINANCING THE BAU IS GIVEN JUSTIFIED CREDIT (ALONG WITH THE FINNISH CONFIDENTIAL

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CENTER PARTY) CANNOT REALLY BE REGARDED AS AN ENTERPRISE OF AGRARIAN AND CENTER PARTIES. MANY OF THE ATTENDEES OF COURSE QUALIFY UNDER THAT HEADING, BUT CERTAINLY NOT ALL OF THEM. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FINNISH HOSTS GOT OUT OF THE MEETING, BUT THE BAU (AND PERHAPS OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS OF A SIMILAR NATURE) CERTAINLY GAINED ADDITIONAL RESPECTABILITY. THE RECENTLY PUBLISHED "THESES" OF

THE BCP DESCRIBE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE BAU AS ONE THAT ENHANCES "RECOGNITION OF THE AUTHORITY OF SOCIALIST BULGARIA THROUGHOUT THE WORLD."

4. ALTHOUGH AS REPORTED BY HELSINKI THE SOVIETS WERE REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE THROUGH THE KOLKHOZ COUNCIL OF THE USSR, IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT IF THAT BODY RATHER THAN THE BAU HAD BEEN PROMINENT IN ORGANIZING AND FINANCING THE EVENT, FEWER PEOPLE WOULD HAVE COME. IF THIS IS TRUE, THE BAU IS EMERGING AS A SIGNIFICANT INSTRUMENT ALLOWING THE USSR TO MANIPULATE NON-COMMUNIST GROUPS AND PARTIES IN EUROPE. AS A FOOTNOTE OF SOME PIQUANCY, THE FINNISH AMBASSADOR HERE REPORTS THAT A SOVIET CITIZEN WAS GIVEN A VISA TO GO TO THE HELSINKI "MINI-CSCE" AS A MEMBER OF THE BULGARIAN DELEGATION. HOWEVER, INSERTION OF A SOVIET CITIZEN IN THE BAU DELEGATION WAS SURELY NOT NECESSARY SINCE THE BAU WILL AUTOMATICALLY DO WHAT IT IS TOLD BY THE BCP, AND THUS BY THE CP-USSR.

5. CONCLUSION: WE ENDORSE PARA 11 OF HELSINKI'S REFTEL A BUT WOULD RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION WHETHER SOME PUBLIC EXPOSURE OF THIS TRANSPARENT PROPAGANDA OPERATION MIGHT NOT BE SALUTARY. IT APPEARS THAT THE GERMAN FDP, WHICH ATTENBE THE VARNA PREPARATORY MEETING, STAYED AWAY FROM HELSINKI. BUT SOME OF THE OTHER NON-COMMUNIST PARTICIPANTS WERE NOT NECESSARILY "LESSER LIGHTS" AS PER PARA 8 REF A. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GEORGIOS MAVROS, LEADER OF THE GREEK CENTER PARTY, FOR INSTANCE, WHO WAS GIVEN AIR TRANSPORTATION BY THE BULGARIANS AND ENTERTAINED HERE EN ROUTE INTER ALIA BY FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV, IS NOT A MINOR

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FIGURE. WHAT PEOPLE LIKE HE EXPECT TO GAIN BY GETTING INTO BED WITH A COMMUNIST PUPPET LIKE TANCHEV IS HARD TO SEE FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT. HERZ

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